

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 OMB-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION PARTIES EMPHASIZE NEED TO PROTECT INSTITUTIONS

1. SUMMARY: IN REACTION TO INCREASING VIOLENCE ON PART OF BOTH EXTREME LEFT AND RIGHT AND TO GOVERNMENT'S OWN BRIEF ABANDONMENT OF LEGAL PROCESSES DURING CORDOBA CRISIS, OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE TRYING TO PLACE INCREASED EMPHASIS ON CONSTITUTIONALISM AND NEED TO PROTECT INSTITUTIONS. MAR 21 MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES EIGHT OPPOSITION PARTIES WITH PERON WAS PART OF THIS EFFORT. END SUMMARY.

2. DESPITE ASSASSINATION OF ROGELIO CORIA, ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF JUAN ABAL MEDINA (SEE SEPTTEL) AND OTHER EVIDENCE OF INCREASING VIOLENCE GROWING OUT OF LEFT-RIGHT FEUD WITHIN PERONISM, IT IS ENCOURAGING TO NOTE THAT SANE VOICES ARE TRYING TO MAKE THEMSELVES HEARD. REPRESENTATIVES OF UCR, PRC, INTRANSIGENTES, PDP, UDELPA, PST, PSP, AND PCA MET WITH PRESIDENT PERON ON MAR 21 TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER

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SITUATION IN COUNTRY AND SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT AS

CONSTITUTIONALLY-ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE OF PEOPLE. IN DOING SO, THEY EMPHASIZED NEED TO PROTECT INSTITUTIONS (AND FOR GOVERNMENT ITSELF TO RESPECT THEM). STRESS OF CALL AND DOCUMENT ISSUED BY PARTIES SUBSEQUENTLY WAS ON ORDER THROUGH LAW.

3. FOLLOWING DAY (MAR 2"), SEVERAL OF LARGEST PROVINCIAL PARTIES IN COUNTRY JOINED TOGETHER IN ISSUING SIMILAR DOCUMENT EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT AND FOR "LEGALISM." ACCORDING TO ARTICLE ON LA OPINION, BOTH NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL PARTIES ISSUED STATEMENTS ON ADVICE OF PRESIDENTIAL SEC GEN VICENTE SOLANO LIMA. LATTER SAID TO HAVE POINTED OUT THAT MODERATE POLITICAL FORCES MUST EXERT THEMSELVES IN DEFENSE OF CONSTITUTIONALISM IF FORCES OF EXTREME LEFT AND RIGHT ARE TO BE PREVENTED FROM TEARING POLITICAL AND SOCIAL FABRIC TO SHREDS.

4. WHETHER COUNSELED BY SOLANO LIMA OR NOT, UCR LEADER BALBIN OVER WEEKEND VIGOROUSLY CONDEMNED WAVE OF VIOLENCE AND CALLED FOR A STRENGTHENING OF A POLITICAL FRONT TO PROTECT CONSTITUTION. THE MAJORITY, HE SAID, MUST NOT BY INACTION ALLOW A SMALL MINORITY TO DESTROY THE COUNTRY. HERIBERTO KAHN OF LA OPINION SPECULATES THAT CALL FOR STRONGER POLITICAL FRONT MAY LEAD TO MORE FORMAL ALLIANCE OF OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES.

5. LA OPINION MAR 24 IN FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL DECLARES THAT TRUE VOICE OF ARGENTINA IS THAT HEARD IN DIALOGUE BETWEEN POLITICAL LEADERS AND PRESIDENT. BOTH EXTREME LEFT AND EXTREME RIGHT ARE PUSHING FOR CIVIL WAR, BUT THEY ARE NOT THE REAL ARGENTINA. TRUE ARGENTINA WANTS DEMOCRACY, PROGRESS AND ABOVE ALL PEACE.

6. COMMENT: MOST ARGENTINES HOPE LA OPINION IS RIGHT ABOUT THE "REAL" ARGENTINA, BUT VIOLENCE IS IN FACT BECOMING ALMOST A PART OF DAILY SCENE HERE. IT IS ENCOURAGING, HOWEVER, THAT MODERATE VOICES ARE BEING RAISED. MOREOVER, PERON'S MEETING WITH NATIONAL PARTIES AND DOCUMENT ISSUED BY PROVINCIAL PARTIES ARE EVIDENCE THAT CORDOBA CRISIS DID NOT DESTROY SPIRIT OF DIALOGUE AND CONSENSUS. ON CONTRARY, BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GIVING GLIMPSE OF PIT ON OTHER SIDE OF CONSTITUTIONALITY, IT MAY HAVE GIVEN ADDED IMPULSE TO THAT SPIRIT.
HILL

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